

## GENERAL NOTES.

Early Notice of *Gavia adamsi*.—The 'Narrative' of Captain (later Sir) John Franklin's first Expedition contains, at p. 222 of the Philadelphia edition, 1824, under date of Sept. 26, 1820, while he was at Fort Enterprize, the following easily recognized description: "The last of the water-fowl that quitted us was a species of diver, of the same size with the *Colymbus arcticus*, but differing from it in the arrangement of the white spots on its plumage, and in having a yellowish white bill. This bird was occasionally caught in our fishing nets."—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Least Tern Breeding on Martha's Vineyard Island, Massachusetts.—On July 21–22, 1897, while on a walking trip along the south beach of Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass., I found a few pairs of Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) undoubtedly breeding near Job's Neck Pond, and a small colony of about fifty birds breeding near Black Point and Chilmark Ponds. An egg was found, but as Piping Plovers (*Ægialitis meloda*) were also on the beach the identification is not positive. A fair number, however, of young birds were in the air.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Terns of Penikese—A Correction.—In my article on the 'Terns of Penikese Island, Massachusetts' (Auk, Vol. XIV, July, 1897, p. 283), at foot of the account of nests and eggs, for 40 nests on Gull Island, read 41 in both places. In *totals of eggs*, read 3099 instead of 2055 for Penikese, and 90 instead of 88 for Gull Island.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Capture of the Little Blue Heron in Connecticut.—A local gunner reported the capture of a strange Heron on August 4. Unfortunately it was sent off to be mounted before I could sex or even see it. The bird has just been shown me, however, mounted, and proves to be an adult *Ardea cærulea* (sex, as I said before, unknown). The man who secured the specimen said that he found it in a small fresh-water 'pond hole' near this place. It was in company with another of the same species, and owing to their extreme shyness it was nearly a week before he could succeed in getting this one. The individual secured is in perfect plumage.—P. J. McCook, *Niantic, Ct.*

*Ægialitis nivosa* in Florida.—Between the 23d of February, this year, and the 2d of April I collected nineteen specimens of typical *Ægialitis nivosa*. The first seven were collected Feb. 23, at the western end of Santa Rosa Island, near Fort Pickens. Between the 18th and the 24th of March a dozen specimens were taken on the Gulf beach of Santa Rosa Island, opposite Mary Esther P. O. In these specimens the females all

showed signs of breeding. Fully developed broken eggs were taken from two of the birds. Two specimens were taken at East Pass on Apr. 2. Many more birds might have been secured. The Snowy Plover was the most common of the shore birds at the localities named.—Geo. K. CHERRIE, *Field Museum, Chicago, Ill.*

*Buteo albicaudatus* in Arizona.—While driving across the desert between Florence and Red Rock, Arizona, a large nest upon which a Hawk was sitting was noticed close by the road. The nest was built in a mesquite tree and but ten feet from the ground.

The bird remained on the nest until I approached within easy gun shot. From the gray appearance of its head I at once took it for *Buteo swainsoni* and refrained from shooting it. A wave of the hand started the bird, which left the nest from the opposite side. As soon as the bird came in full view I realized my error, and hastily fired a shot after it; as the load was a light one, the bird flew away minus but a few feathers. I have seen in life and in their native wilds twenty-six species of our Hawk family, twenty of which I have taken, but this was a new one to me—a Hawk which I had never seen before.

Its white tail, including the rump, with broad terminal band of black, chestnut shoulders, gray head, and light colored breast with a few dark markings, and its size, which equals that of *Buteo borealis*, puts to rest all doubt but that the bird was *Buteo albicaudatus*.

Being so far from its ascribed range, I have looked up all of the available history bearing upon this species, and so far as I can learn no specimens have been taken in the United States outside of a small portion of the southern corner of Texas.

After leaving the nest the Hawk flew to the dead top of a mesquite, a quarter of a mile away. I started after it at once, hoping that I might yet secure the parent of the egg which I had just taken. I had crossed probably one fourth of the intervening distance, when the bird arose with powerful strokes of its wings, circling upward until but a speck in the sky. I could not tarry long in hope of securing the bird, and with much reluctance the journey was resumed. The distance between Florence and Red Rock is almost forty miles, between which places no water fit for man or beast is to be found.

The egg taken was far advanced in incubation. In size, shape and color it resembles one of the lighter unmarked eggs of *Buteo borealis*. —GEORGE F. BRENINGER, *Phoenix, Arizona.*

Additional Records of the Flammulated Owl (*Megascops flammeola*) in Colorado.—On the 27th of May, 1897, I secured a set of two fresh eggs, and on the 29th a set of three eggs slightly incubated, of the Flammulated Screech Owl, and in both cases secured the female bird. The first set was secured in an old Woodpecker's hole in an old pine stub, about eighteen feet from the ground, at an altitude of about 7200 feet,